



**BILLING CODE (3410-XY-U)**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Rural Business-Cooperative Service**

**Amendment to Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the  
Rural Energy for America Program**

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (Agency) published a notice in the **Federal Register** of October 6, 2015 (80 FR 60349), announcing the acceptance of applications for funds available under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. The 2014 Farm Bill provides funding for the program for FY 2016. This notice provides an amendment to Section V. Application Review Information, subsection A. Evaluation Criteria, to allow points to be awarded if any of the criteria are met and to maintain consistency with other Rural Development programs on how poverty areas are defined.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about this Notice, please contact Kelley Oehler, USDA Rural Development, Energy Division, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 3225, Room 6870, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-6819. E-mail: Kelley.oehler@wdc.usda.gov

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

The October 6, 2015, Notice identified on page 60353, in the third column toward the bottom of the page, under Section V. Application Review Information, subsection A. Evaluation Criteria, paragraph (1)(a) indicates an "and" between the words "unserved" and "under-served populations", and an "and" between subparagraphs (i) and (ii), as well as between subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (1)(b), which is on page 60354 on the top of the first column. The "and" is being replaced with "or" in each of these locations to indicate the State Director and Administrator can award points if only one of the criterion is met.

Further, on page 60354 of the Notice, under paragraph (1)(b)(i), which is on the top of the first column, the following language is inserted after the phrase "living in poverty." The period is replaced with a comma and the phrase is being added "a project is located in a community

(village, town, city, or Census Designated Place) with median household income of 60 percent or less of the state's non-metropolitan median household income."

The changes are being made to ensure REAP maintains consistency with other Agency programs on how poverty areas are defined for State Director and Administrator points and to not restrict points from being awarded if only one criteria is met.

The following Summary of Changes apply to the October 6, 2015, Notice.

#### **Summary of Changes**

1. In the third column on page 60353, Section V. Application Review Information, subsection A. Evaluation Criteria, paragraph (1)(a), the sentence is revised to read as follows:

With regard to 7 CFR 4280.120(g)(3), which addresses applicants who are members of unserved or under-served populations, a project that is:

2. In the third column on page 60353, Section V. Application Review Information, subsection A. Evaluation Criteria, paragraph (1)(a)(i), the last sentence is revised to read as follows:

In order to receive points, applicants must provide a statement in their applications to indicate that owners of

the project have veteran status; or

3. In the first column on page 60354, paragraph (1) (b) (i) is revised to read as follows:

(i) Located in rural areas with the lowest incomes where, according to the most recent 5-year American Community Survey data by the U.S. Census Bureau, tracts show that at least 20 percent of the population is living in poverty or a project is located in a community (village, town, city, or Census Designated Place) with a median household income of 60 percent or less of the State's non-metropolitan median household income. This will support the Secretary of Agriculture's priority of providing 20 percent of its funding by 2016 to these areas of need; or

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USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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SAMUEL H. RIKKERS  
Acting Administrator  
Rural Business-Cooperative Service  
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December 8, 2015.  
Date